

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049746  
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07  
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R 071418Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049746

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PO, GW, PINS, ASEC

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCE DEVELOPMENT: STATUS OF US  
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGUESE BRIGADE

1. WE DO NOT HAVE A FINAL USG ANSWER ON OUR FURTHER CONTRI-  
BUTIONS, BUT AGREE THAT CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRG IN BONN  
AND BRUSSELS WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE. BEGIN FYI ONLY (NOFORN):

2. REQUEST HAS BEEN FORWARDED TO OMB RECOMMENDING THAT 30  
MILLION DOLLARS GRANT MAP BE INCLUDED FOR PORTUGAL AS A  
SUPPLEMENT TO THE FY 77 BUDGET, AND IS NOW PENDING PRESI-  
DENTIAL APPROVAL. SECDEF HAS SUPPORTED RAPID SUBMISSION TO  
CONGRESS. IT IS LIKELY THAT SUBMISSION TO THE CONGRESS WILL  
BE IN JANUARY, SHORTLY AFTER ITS RETURN, ALONG WITH THE  
PRESIDENT'S OVERALL FY 78 BUDGET SUBMISSION. WE WILL INFORM  
EMBASSY AS SOON AS PRESIDENT HAS MADE HIS DECISION ON THIS  
PROPOSAL.

3. ALTHOUGH CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE TOWARD PORTUGAL IS  
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POSITIVE, CONGRESS WILL PROBABLY WANT TO SEE PROJECTIONS  
(PARTICULARLY FOR 1978 AND BEYOND) OF TOTAL PROPOSED MILI-  
TARY AND CIVILIAN ASSISTANCE BEFORE ACTING ON ANY SPECIFIC  
REQUESTS. GIVEN THE IMMINENCE OF THE AZORES NEGOTIATIONS,  
IT IS NOT PRACTICAL TO PROJECT TOTAL ASSISTANCE NOW. CON-

SEQUENTLY, WHILE WE CAN -- AND WISH -- TO EXPLORE WITH OUR

ALLIES THE TYPES OF ASSISTANCE EACH FEELS BEST ABLE TO OFFER, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO DISCUSS LEVELS, END FYI (NOFORN)

4. USNATO AND EMBASSY BONN SHOULD CONSULT WITH FRG AUTHORITIES ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. IT REMAINS OUR INTENTION TO ASSIST WITH PORTUGUESE FORCE MODERNIZATION, AS DEMONSTRATED BY OUR INITIAL DELIVERY LAST JUNE OF FIVE TANKS AND 20 APCs.

B. FURTHER US SUPPORT IS UNDER SERIOUS CONSIDERATION FOR ADDITIONAL C-130'S TO COMPLEMENT THE TWO GPC IS PROCURING COMMERCIALY.

C. WE ARE INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING MOMENTUM IN THIS COLLECTIVE EFFORT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PORTUGUESE FORCES FOR NATO. WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT ANY POTENTIALLY DISSIDENT ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PORTUGUESE MILITARY NOT BE ABLE TO POINT TO EITHER A LACK OF CURRENT INTEREST BY NATO NATIONS OR TO WANING SUPPORT OVER THE LONGER TERM.

C. WE ARE ALSO INTERESTED IN ENSURING THAT THE NATO ASSISTANCE EFFORT BE A COOPERATIVE ONE IN WHICH AS MANY ALLIES AS POSSIBLE DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONCERN AND SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL, WITH ALL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS FITTING INTO AN OVERALL PACKAGE.

E. SURVEYS OF PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE, ARMY, AND NAVY NEEDS ARE NEARLY COMPLETE. AFTER THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO THE PORTUGUESE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THEM WITH THEM.

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PORTUGUESE, WE ARE HOPEFUL THE PORTUGUESE WILL QUICKLY DEVELOP THEIR FINAL VIEWS ON THEIR EQUIPMENT NEEDS AND DISCUSS THEM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS THEY AGREED AT THE JULY 29 MEETING. WE HOPE THAT THE NEXT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING WILL INCLUDE THIS PRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL'S NEEDS AS PERCEIVED BY THE PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES AND THAT, BASED ON THE NEEDS, MEMBERS CAN MAKE CONCRETE OFFERS OR, AT A MINIMUM, DEFINE THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY FEEL THEY CAN HELP.

F. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE FRG'S VIEWS ON THE NEEDS OF THE PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES, AND GERMANY'S POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO THEM. AT THIS STAGE, WE ARE INTERESTED AS MUCH IN THE TYPES OF EQUIPMENT OR OTHER ASSISTANCE THE FRG THINKS IT COULD OFFER, AS WE ARE IN THE OVERALL LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE.

G. WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHICH OF OUR ALLIES THEY ENVISION AS POSSIBLY BEING HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING EACH OF

THE PORTUGUESE SERVICES.

H. WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR MORE ABOUT A POSSIBLE GERMAN CONCEPT THAT VARIOUS ALLIES CONCENTRATE ON MODERNIZING ONE OF THE RESPECTIVE SERVICES, E.G., THAT THE GERMANS HELP MODERNIZE THE ARMY, THE US THE AIR FORCE, AND THE NAVY RECEIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE NORWEGIANS OR BRITISH.

5. WE BELIEVE THAT THE SYG AND OTHER RANKING NATO OFFICIALS WILL HAVE TO SUPPLY STRONG LEADERSHIP IF THE ARMED FORCES MODERNIZATION PROGRAM IS TO BE A SUCCESSFUL ALLIED VENTURE.  
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